



LOCKDOWN HEARTACHE FOR SYDNEY SMALL BUSINESSES

It's gut-wrenching to see so many small and family businesses doing it tough in Sydney, with the COVID lockdown now extended until at least the end of August.

As a Victorian, I have seen first-hand how COVID is disproportionately impacting on too many smaller businesses, even as economic and movement limitations are being dialled back. I'm sure south-east Queensland small business owners share my hope that 'circuit breaking lockdowns' will be just that, and they can get back to running their businesses.

We know protracted lockdowns and trading restrictions can be devastating for small and family business owners, their staff and families.

The Australian Government has increased the support packages to NSW small businesses.

Under the new JobSaver program, small and family businesses that have suffered a 30% decline in turnover, will receive 40% of their payroll payments (between \$1,500 and \$100,000 per week) so long as staffing levels are maintained.

Sole traders experiencing a 30% fall in revenue will continue to receive \$1,000 per week.

These payments have been co-funded by the Federal and NSW Governments and will be administered by [Service NSW](#).

We welcome this increased support along with the banks which have re-activated

measures to help small businesses with loan repayments.

My office has also urged the Federal Government and regulators to consider the reactivation of temporary insolvency protections, to support small and family businesses doing it tough in lockdown.

The re-introduction of measures, such as the extension to existing safe harbour provisions, would provide temporary additional protections for small and family businesses that may be trading insolvent due to lockdown trading restrictions.

In reality, small businesses aren't like a light that can be switched on and off.

Bringing back temporary protections that were in place last year, would be a sensible and appropriate policy measure, particularly for those small and family businesses impacted by recurring and protracted lockdowns in Melbourne and Sydney.

Insolvency protections introduced temporarily last year worked to reduce the threat of creditors taking action against a small business impacted by trading restrictions and offered temporary relief for directors from any personal liability for trading while insolvent.

Crucially its measures like this that give otherwise viable small businesses more time to recover or turnaround, preventing a wave of unnecessary insolvencies. By giving a small company breathing space to restructure, you also help mitigate the risk of small business creditors getting swept up in the domino effect of insolvencies.

In the meantime, I strongly encourage small business owners experiencing financial hardship to sit down with their trusted, accredited financial adviser for a viability assessment.

We know the sooner a small business owner experiencing financial stress reaches out to an accredited professional such as their bookkeeper or accountant, the better the outcome.

Now is the time to get expert, tailored advice on the state of your business so you can make an informed decision about the future.

There is no doubt that lockdowns and trading restrictions put small and family businesses under enormous pressure. It is vital small business owners know that help is available if they need it.

If you are struggling to cope, please reach out by visiting our [My Business Health](#) web portal or registering for Beyond Blue's [New Access for Small Business Owners](#) program.



Croc Candy's sweet success

While in Darwin Ombudsman Bruce Billson caught up with Executive Head of Croc Candy, Angus Copelin-Walters.



The [My Business Health](#) web portal can help you with the challenges of running a small business. Access expert advice and find tips for achieving balance in your busy business world. Visit My Business Health for more information on [Beyond Blue's tailored program New Access for Small Business Owners](#).

Visit My Business Health today



Fake trader scams

Fake stores on social media are costing Australians thousands. Make sure you can spot social media scams.

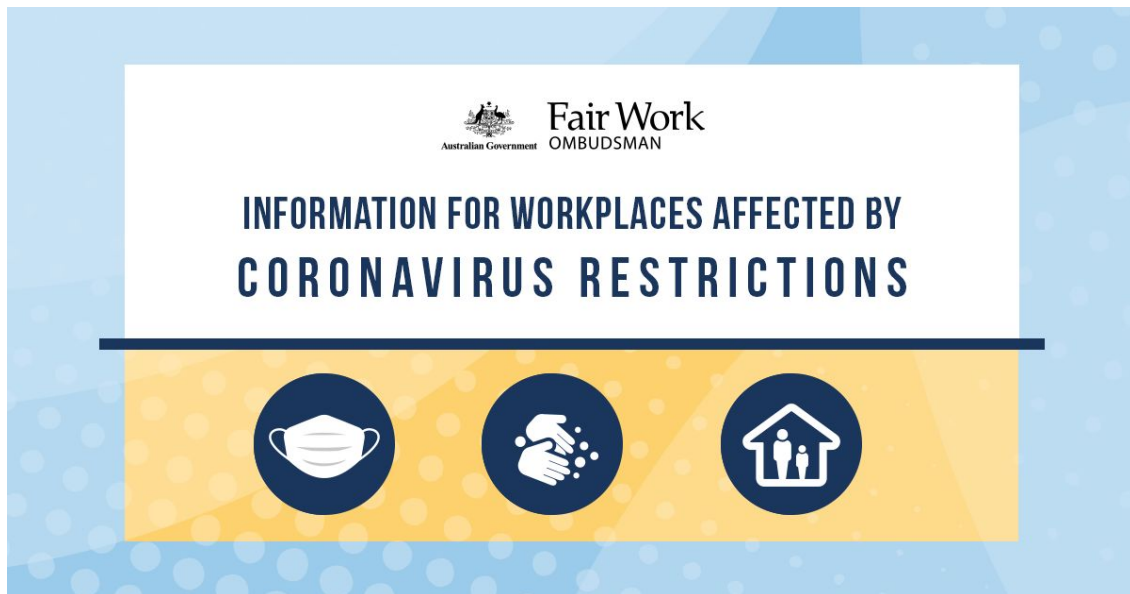
[Learn more](#)



**Australian landscape photographer
discovers missing piece of business**

The past 18 months hasn't been a pretty picture for many small businesses. For talented Canberra photographer Scott Leggo, the pandemic changed the landscape for his growing business dramatically.

[Read More](#)



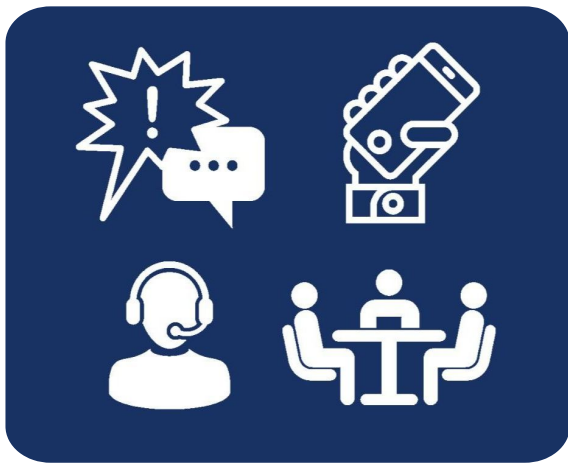
Help managing your workforce

It's a difficult time for many small and family businesses around the country. The Fair Work Ombudsman's dedicated [coronavirus website](#) has information and resources to help you understand your options and manage your workforce, including:

- [when workplaces shut quickly because of a lockdown](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccinations and the workplace](#)
- [returning to the workplace \(interactive tool\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Key monthly statistics from our Assistance team



452 phone calls to the ASBFEO Information Line.

85% of contacts were from small businesses

Payment disputes (**36%**) and contract disputes (**22%**) were the top two types of disputes.

30% of contacts came from NSW, **30%** from QLD and **20%** from VIC.

Assistance win

For small businesses, late payment of invoices can have a significant impact on cash flow. When a franchisor reached out to our assistance team about a debt owed by a franchisee, we were able to provide information on the new Franchising Code of Conduct and provide a Notice of Dispute template. The franchisor issued the notice to the franchisee and 90% of the debt was paid immediately.



Google
My Business

Keep your customers up to date

Now more than ever it's important to keep customers up to date on any changes to your business. When information about your business changes, you can update it with Google My Business. These could be changes to your opening hours, or the services you're providing. Regular updates help to ensure that the most accurate information about your business is shown to your customers.

[Learn more](#)



ATO's free Tax Help Program

The ATO's Tax Help program is a free and confidential community service that aims to help taxpayers with simple tax affairs who earn less than \$60,000 annually, to prepare and lodge their tax returns online using myTax. Tax Help is available until the end of October across Australia and is run by ATO-trained community volunteers. Volunteers will deliver this service in the following ways:

- in person at Tax Help centres across Australia
- online through virtual assistance
- over the phone.

In some locations, Tax Help is available in languages other than English. Let your community know they can make an appointment by phoning the ATO on 13 28 61.

[Read more](#)



Support for NSW small business

The NSW Government has announced a financial support package and changes to the Dine & Discover program to assist NSW small businesses impacted by the current COVID-19 restrictions.

[Find out more](#)



Do you keep the
right records?

ato.gov.au/recordkeeping

DE-33659

Five rules for good record keeping

Good record keeping throughout the year (knowing what records you need to keep and making sure they are complete and accurate) will make things easier when it's time to do your tax. Find out the five rules for record keeping.

[Read More](#)



2021 Census - Every stat tells a story

Your Census answers don't just make statistics. Local birth rates help plan local playgroups that connect families. The number of people in remote areas tells doctors where life-saving help is needed most. When you complete your Census, you're helping build a better future for all of us.

[Learn more](#)

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